



# Municipal Research Council

*Providing cost-saving, centralized research and services to local governments*

## Purpose

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) staffs the Municipal Research Council (MRC), which was created to provide cost-saving research and services to local governments through one centralized source.

The MRC's programs are designed to provide technical expertise that for the most part is not affordable to an individual local government and to eliminate duplication of effort that occurs when services are performed separately by individual local governments.

MRC membership consists of 14 members who serve two-year terms:

- ◆ Two members appointed by the President of the Senate
- ◆ Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- ◆ One member from each of the two major political parties
- ◆ Six members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Association of Washington Cities
- ◆ Two members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties
- ◆ One member appointed by the Washington Association of County Officials
- ◆ The director of CTED

## Results and Achievements

Local governments receive:

- ◆ Dependable advice, practical solutions, and quick access to legal and policy research
- ◆ Sample documents to illustrate virtually all local government functions
- ◆ The finance industry can draw upon otherwise unavailable market data
- ◆ Informative publications and a complete local government library
- ◆ 24-hour internet access

## Fast Facts

- ◆ The MRSC website saw 3.5 million visitors in 2004
- ◆ Forty percent of calls for assistance are from cities with populations of 5,000 or fewer
- ◆ Seattle owed 51 percent of general obligation debt by cities/towns in 2002
- ◆ More than 60 percent of inquiries is for legal advice sought from smaller jurisdictions that cannot afford attorney fees.

## For More Information

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## Statutory Authority

RCW 43.110

RCW 43.110.010

*As last amended by Sec. 1,  
Ch. 290, Laws of 2001*

RCW 43.110.030

*As last amended by Sec. 3,  
Ch. 227, Laws of 2000*

RCW 43.110.050

*As last amended by Sec. 1,  
Ch. 38, Laws of 2002*

RCW 43.110.060

*As last amended by Sec. 4,  
Ch. 38, Laws of 2002*

RCW 82.08.170

*As last amended by Sec. 3,  
Ch. 38, Laws of 2002*

RCW 66.08.190

*As last amended by Sec. 927,  
Ch. 25, 1st Sp. Session, Laws  
of 2003*

## Services

Through its contractor, the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), the MRC responds to local government requests for advice and information on municipal law, finance, growth management, public works, management, and operations.

The MRSC library holds the state's largest collection of municipal reference materials. The MRSC also publishes many research articles and operates a web site that received more than 3.5 million visitors in calendar year 2004.

These consolidated services reduce the need for local staff and are especially crucial to smaller units of local government. The MRC provides comprehensive research services to all 281 cities and towns and 39 counties of Washington State.

"Your personnel are unfailingly quick to respond to my needs, ever patient with me, and positively overwhelming in the research they...offer me."

*—Luana Burnett, Police  
Services Officer, City of  
Newport*

## Performance Measures

- ◆ The local government web site ([www.mrsc.org](http://www.mrsc.org)) served more than 3.5 million visitors in calendar year 2004
- ◆ MRSC staff responded to more than 7,000 telephone or e-mail requests for information and advice on local government legal and policy issues